

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. Additional sources of media outlets are an optical ilusion. Broadcast media is still where the vast majority of people gather information. And the editorial decisions are made at the highest levels of corporations that control thoses outlets. A free and unfettered press was seen by the framers of this great nation as indispensable to constraining despotic government. Diverse and dissenting voices must be heard in a free society. This was further understood in 1933, when the rules on radio ownership were written , and the power of television was not even yet known. but, there was an understanding that economies of scale produce abuses by the wealthy. Please do not allow this nation to become a hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil collection of broadcast media that aligns their profit margin with the governments political ideology. We depend of hearing the good, the bad and the ugly if we are to make informed decisions as members of a free society.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

David Borris

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